

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 DHA-02 OMB-01 TRSY-02 /078 W

-----011029Z 130022 /22

R 010830Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 88

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BELGRADE 1963

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, SHUM, PFOR, YO, UR

SUBJECT: PUBLIC LECTURE BY SENIOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICIAL

1. SUMMARY: AT A PUBLIC LECTURE ON CSCE THE SENIOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICIAL OF THE MASS FRONT SOCIALIST ALLIANCE, ALEXANDER BAKOCEVIC, SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES WANTS TO GIVE OTHERS LESSONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN SPITE OF ITS RECORD IN VIETNAM AND ITS CONTINUING SUPPORT OF REACTIONARY REGIMES. HE ACKNOWLEDGE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS EXIST IN THE REST
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OF EATERN EUROPE, MENTIONING THE SOVIET UNION BY NAME, BUT HE SAID THAT FREEDOM CAN ONLY GORW IN THESE COUNTRIES AS A RUSULT OF INTERNAL EVOLUTION. HE SAID THE OUTLOOK FOR THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE IS MUCH MORE POSITIVE THAN ONE OR TWO MONTHS AGO WHEN IT SEEMED LIKELY TO PRODUCE AN IDEOLOGICAL CONFRONTATION. END SUMMARY.

2. IN ONE OF A SERIES OF PUBLIC LECTURES AT A BELGRADE COMMUNITY CENTER, BAKOCEVIC SPOKE TO AN AUDIENCE OF ABOUT 60 YUGOSLAVS ON THE SUBJECT OF CSCE MARCH 29. AN AMERICAN AND ALSO A SOVIET DIPLOMAT WERE ATTENDANCE. THE HIGH-LIGHTS OF HIS TALK AND THE QUESTION PERIOD ARE GIVEN BELOW.

3. THE AMERICAN ATTITUDE TO CSCE. BAKOCEVIC SAID THAT THE U.S. WANTS TO GIVE OTHERS LESSONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE BELGRADE MEETING. HE SAID THIS IS A BIT HARD TO UNDERSTAND IN VIEW OF THE AMERICAN RECORD IN VIETNAM AND ITS CONTINUING SUPPORT OF REACTIONARY REGIMES LIKE SOUTH AFRICA, IN SPITE OF SOME SURFACE INDICATIONS TO THE CONTRARY. HE SAID THE WEST HAS MOUNTED A PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN EASTERN EUROPE IN ORDER TO PERPETUATE THE BLOC DIVISION OF THE CONTINENT AND DISCREDIT SOCIALISM.

4. THE YUGOSLAV ATTITUDE TO CSCE. BAKOCEVIC SAID THAT YUGOSLAVIA FIRMLY SUPPORTS THE PROCESS OF DETENTE WHICH CSCE REPRESENTS. DETENTE WILL EVENTUALLY LEAD TO THE DISSOLUTION OF THE BLOCS. FOR INSTANCE, IN FRANCE THE SOCIALIST-COMMUNIST ALLIANCE IS GAINING IN STRENGTH AND IS LIKELY TO WIN CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT BEFORE LONG. FRANCE WILL THEN ADOPT AN EVEN MORE INDEPENDENT POLICY THAN DEGAULLE. AS TENSIONS RELAX, STATES WILL NO LONGER ACCEPT BEING TREATED, FOR INSTANCE, "LIKE PEONS OF THE UNITED STATES." WHILE YUGOSLAVIA FAVORS DETENTE, IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN PART OF THE YUGOSLAV ATTITUDE THAT DETENTE DOES NOT MEAN WITHDRAWAL FROM THE CONFIDENTIAL

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IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE, BAKOCEVIC SAID.

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R 010830Z APR 77
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BELGRADE 1963

5. HUMAN RIGHTS IN EASTERN EUROPE. BAKOCEVIC ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE ARE PROBLEMS OF SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS "IN ALBANIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THE SOVIET UNION AND ELSEWHERE" BUT HE SAID THESE ARE "CONCRETE" PROBLEMS AND NOT PROBLEMS WITH SOCIALISM ITSELF. SOCIALISM IS FOR THE LIBERATION OF MAN, MAXIMUM FREEDOM AND THE END OF EXPLOITATION. GREATER FREEDOM CAN ONLY DEVELOP IN EASTERN EUROPE FROM THE INTERNAL EVOLUTION OF EACH COUNTRY. HE SAID THAT DEMOCRACY CANNOT BE EQUATED WITH THE BALLOT BOX. IT HAS A LARGE ECONOMIC ELEMENT. YUGOSLAVIA IS COMMITTED TO DIRECT DEMOCRACY THROUGH SOCIALIST SELF-CONFIDENTIAL

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MANAGEMENT WHICH IS A "NEGATION" OF BOTH "BOURGEOIS PLURALISM" AND STATE SOCIALISM. HE ACKNOWLEDGED SOME WEAKNESSES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SELF-MANAGEMENT BUT SAID THAT THE SPRIT OF YUGOSLAVIA IS BASICALLY FREE AND DEMOCRATIC.

6. CSCE OUTLOOK. BAKOCEVIC SAID THE OUTLOOK FOR THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE HAS IMPROVED GREATLY OVER THE SITUATION ONE TO TWO MONTHS AGO WHEN IT LOOKED AS IF THE CONFERENCE MIGHT PRODUCE AN "IDEOLOGICAL CONFRONTATION." PRESIDENT GISCARD AND CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HAVE MADE POSITIVE STATEMENTS RECENTLY. THE CONFERENCE IS NOW LIKELY TO BE CONSTRUCTIVE AND TO LEAD TO FURTHER RELAXATION OF TENSIONS. BAKOCEVIC SAID THAT SOME 500 JOURNALISTS HAVE ALREADY SOUGHT ACCREDITATION FOR THE CONFERENCE. HE SAID THE PREPARATORY MEETING BEGINNING JUNE 15. IS EXPECTED TO LAST ONE MONTH. HE EXPECTS THE PLENARY TO BEGIN WORK IN LATE SEPTEMBER OR EARLY OCTOBER AND NOT TO END BEFORE JANUARY, 1978. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE DELEGATES

WOULD BE BELOW THE FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL.

7. YUGOSLAV ATTITUDE TOWARD SOVIET-AMERICAN CONSULTATIONS.
WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE PRESENT VANCE-BREZHNEV MEETINGS,
BAKOCEVIC SAID THAT YUGOSLAVIA FAVORS SUCH SOVIET-AMERICAN
MEETINGS. YUGOSLAVIA PREFERS THAT THE SUPER POWERS TALK
RATHER THAN FIGHT, BUT OPPOSES THEIR DECIDING THE FATE OF
OTHERS. HE SAID HISTORY SHOWS THAT THE STRONG HAVE ALWAYS
TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THE WEAK. HE SAID YUGOSLAVIA REJECTED THW
WARTIME "50-50 AGREEMENT BETWEEN CHURCHILL AND STALIN" AND WILL
ALWAYS OPPOSE SUCH SUPER POWER DEALS AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHERS.

8. COMMENT: BAKOCEVIC'S LECTURE INDICATES THAT LEADERSHIP
NOW USING ALL MEDIA AND OTHER METHODS TO EDUCATE PUBLIC ON LCY
LINE (BELGRADE 1924). BAKOCEVIC IN HIS REMINDER THAT YUGOSLAVIA
DOES NOT BELIEVE DETENTE MEANS ABANDONING THE IDEOLOGICAL
STRUGGLE OF COURSE EXCLUDES DISCUSSIONS OF 'HUMAN RIGHTS'
FROM THIS FRAMEWORK.

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, YO, UR, US, CSCE, (BAKOCEVIC, ALEXANDER)
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